

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1129

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS

REF: STATE 110005

1. ALTHOUGH GOC HAS STRONGLY SUGGESTED IT WOULD NOT RESUME TALKS ON BASIS OF PRESENT, IT HAS NOT COMPLETELY RULED THAT OPTION OUT. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, GOC WILL RESIST RESUMPTION OF TALKS, AT LEAST UNTIL EMBARGO QUESTION IS SETTLED IN CONGRESS. NEVERTHELESS, A FIRM CALL BY SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM FOR TWO SIDES TO RECOMMENCE TALKS, BASED ON FURTHER ASSURANCES BY TURKISH SIDE THAT ITS PROPOSALS ARE FLEXIBLE AND WOULD PROVIDE FOR RETURN OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES UNDER GREEK CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION, WOULD CONSTITUTE STRONG PRESSURE ON GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE TO RETURN TO THE TABLE.

2. GOC HAS BEEN ABLE TO DENIGRATE PRESENT PROPOSALS AND CONTAIN REFUGEE SENTIMENT PRIMARILY BECAUSE PROPOSALS DO NOT APPEAR TO PROVIDE FOR EARLY RETURN OF LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES EXCEPT IN VAROSHA, WHERE THEY WOULD BE UNDER TURKISH ADMINISTRATION. IF WALDHEIM CAN
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CREDIBLY HOLD OUT POSSIBILITY THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT NEGOTIATING POSITION WOULD ACCOMODATE RETURN OF 30,000 VAROSHA REFUGEES UNDER GREEK CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION, IT WOULD HAVE AN IMMEDIATE POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON GREEK CYPRIOT OPINION. IT WOULD BE EQUALLY HELPFUL IF WALDHEIM COULD STATE THAT PROPOSALS ENVISION RETURN OF LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN OTHER AREAS. KNOWL-

EDGEABLE AND INFLUENTIAL GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE CONFIDED TO US THEIR BELIEF THAT ONLY A FINAL SETTLEMENT PROVIDING FOR RETURN OF HALF (80,000 TO 90,000) OF ALL REFUGEES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE. THESE SOURCES SPEAK OF 40,000 REFUGEES RETURNING TO FAMAGUSTA/VAROSHA AREA, ANOTHER 20,000 TO AREA BETWEEN NICOSIA AND FAMAGUSTA, AND PERHAPS 10,000 TO 15,000 TO MORPHOU AREA, NOT NECESSARILY INCLUDING THE TOWN. ANY CREDIBLE HOPE THAT SOMETHING NEAR THESE FIGURES MIGHT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR GOC TO REFUSE TO RESUME TALKS.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS HAVE ALSO PROVIDED GOC WITH SOLID GROUND FOR RESISTING NEGOTIATIONS. GOC CONTENTS THAT PROPOSALS PROVIDE FOR ONLY A LOOSE CONFEDERATION OF TWO SOVERIGN STATES AND THAT TURKS HAVE THUS RENEGED ON THEIR COMMITMENT TO A GENUINE FEDERAL STATE. WE BELIEVE ASSURANCES OF TURKISH FLEXIBILITY ON THESE ASPECTS OF PROPOSALS WOULD ALSO IMPROVE CHANCES OF GETTING GREEK CYPRIOTS BACK TO THE TABLE. IN GENERAL, THE MORE ACCOMMODATING THE TURKISH SIDE IS ON DEMANDS FOR A STRONG FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE LESS TERRITORY GREEKS WILL DEMAND; THE MORE TERRITORY TURKS CONCEDE, THE LESS INSISTENT WILL THE GREEKS BE ON CONSTITUTION.

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4. FINALLY, GOC IS SENSITIVE TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION. IF WALDHEIM, IN CALLING FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS, CAN BE SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING WITH REGARD TO TURKISH INTENTIONS TO CONVINCE GOC THAT SUBSTANTIAL PART OF WORLD OPINION WOULD CONSIDER GOC INTRANSIGENT IF IT WERE NOT TO RESUME TALKS, THEN GOC WOULD BE MORE INCLINED TO ACCPET CALL.

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